

StoryCorps Interview at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History

David “Chip” Leslie and his grandson Donovan Spirey

Chip Leslie: I just adore coming here with you, and one of the first things I see and love to see when I walk in is that big, huge sculpture.

Donovan Spirey: Yeah, the mastodon sculpture.

CL: What do you do when you go see the mastodon?

DS: I usually go under it—sometimes I accidentally bonk my head on it (laughs).

CL: Okay. We have a brachiosaurus here, don't we?

DS: Yeah.

CL: At Sam Noble?

DS: Yes.

CL: And a baby one?

DS: Smallest and biggest theropod ever found.

CL: And were they found here, in Oklahoma?

DS: Yeah!

CL: Wow. Grammy and I were talking when we were driving down about if we had a magic wand and could do something different for the museum, what would it be?

DS: I think they should have a new temporary exhibit, like an exhibit on bugs and an exhibit on prehistoric people and other prehistoric animals. But I also think that they should really try to get some more dinosaur bones.

CL: And how do they do that?

DS: By digging some more.

CL: I think when you're 12 you can go out on some digs with the people here.

DS: Wow.

CL: I'd love to go, too.

DS: Yeah!

CL: If you worked here, what would you want to be?

DS: Probably the dinosaur exhibit manager.

CL: Yeah...

DS: It would give me a lot of chances to walk through it.

CL: Yeah. How's school this year? Do you like your teacher?

DS: Yeah!

CL: And that's third grade, right?

DS: Mhm. We are currently in our plant unit in science, and we have already dissected a lima bean and started growing fast plants in a CD case.

CL: Is science your favorite subject?

DS: Yes!

CL: Do you think that's because you came to the Sam Noble Museum so often?

DS: Oh...I can't think of any other way!

(laughter)